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Journal 3

Foundations of Education

The desks were arranged in columns with one seat behind another but allowing isles in between each row. This was a beneficial seating arrangement, because it allowed all the students to face the board while still having gaps in-between one another so they could not cheat or copy off each other. Moreover, the seating arrangement allowed the students to sit close enough together to work in small groups and to solve complex problems. The idea of a column seating arrangement allowed an easier method of passing out homework assignments and handing assignments back in because the students either pass the papers forward or backwards. I like the setup of her classroom because it allowed for an optimum amount of learning while still keeping focus for the students. They were able to pay attention and see the board while still being able to participate with their partners.

Mrs. Martin’s desk was positioned at the front of the classroom and in the corner. This allowed her to overlook her students when taking tests or even when doing assignments. This idea of an arrangement also allowed her to position herself away from her students so she could have private conversations with students about their grades without having everyone in the classroom over hear their conversation. The angle of her desk also allowed her to see the door of the classroom and for her to visibly see the board as well. Being positioned in the corner of the room also allowed her to post class times and schedules on the wall next to her which was easily visible from her desk. This helps greatly when planning and organizing daily activities or even when planning extracurricular family events after school.

Mrs. Martin is a firm believer in the benefits of having posters to boost student’s confidence. She has a lot of inspirational posters on the wall while also having a few showing her pride in the Oklahoma Sooners (where her husband attended) and the Iowa State Cyclones were she is an alumni at. I thought this was very cool to show your pride for your school in the classroom and to boost students’ self-assurance. She also awarded good grades by placing student achievements up on the wall. This varied from posters, to papers, to labs, and even tests. This was an interesting idea because it made students work for something besides just the grade. They wanted to get on the wall and show their academic achievements. This was the case not only for her 4th grade religion class but also for her high school level students. They wanted to be on the wall of her classroom because it was considered a bit of an honor in a way. I found great enjoyment in her class and I found this to be a very beneficial teaching method.

In my classroom I want to have something that boosts academic performance by allowing some sort of a reward for good grades. This was a very interesting Idea and I might have to steal a bit of her thought process. Likewise, I feel that I will have a similar arrangement of seating because the seating worked perfect for this class. When pursuing a secondary education degree with emphasis in teaching it is easy to see things from a far but now it is weighing the benefits of all the different options. I am excited to arrange and to customize my classroom so l can create a positive learning environment for all of my students on all levels.